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City sales tax receipts Brrrrr exceed expectations

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

City Manager John Horst admits to being tickled to death, and it has nothing to do with the holiday season.

The sales tax receipts that Pampa has received during the first quarter of their fiscal year are running more than 13 percent over what was expected.

The city budgeted \$714,867.28 in sale tax income for the first quarter. have gotten \$808,064.76.

"That's \$138,000 more than for the first quarter last year," Horst said. "That's a pretty good nest egg."

The receipts in October were up 6.04 percent from last year. They were up 11.06 percent in November over the previous year. This month's check from the state comptroller for sales tax revenues was up 23.17 percent over the 2005-2006 fiscal

"For the first quarter," Horst said, "we've received 93 percent more than we budgeted."

He said the sales tax check

See TAXES, Page 3

DBA drawing postponed

The Downtown Business Association drawing scheduled for Tuesday has been postponed because of expected inclement weather.

The drawing will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in from of Rheams Diamond Shop.



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Traffic flowed down Perryton Parkway today as temperatures at dawn hovered around freezing. Weather forecasters say ice and sleet will move into the area tonight and Tuesday, followed by snow and more sleet, making driving conditions treacherous.

Christmas cheer



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

From left, 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer welcomed Assistant Gray County Auditor Carla Carter and County Auditor Elaine Morris to a Christmas reception Friday afternoon in her offices on the fourth floor of the county courthouse at 205 N. Russell.

DPS drug arrests continue to climb

By KERRI SMITH

Staff Writer Three traffic stops on Thursday along Interstate 40 near Groom yielded more seizures of cocaine and marijuana and resulted in five arrests, according to Texas Department of Public Safety reports.

The first stop occurred at 7:50 a.m., 1 mile west of Groom when a 2002 Ford XPL was stopped. Found inside false compartments in the vehicle were 18 bundles containing 9,000 grams of cocaine. The estimated value is \$450,000. Arrested and booked into the Carson County Jail were Castro Rosario Cebreros, 22, of Tijuana, Mexico, and Jessica Michelle Estrada, 21, of San Diego, Calif. This load is believed to have originated

in Tijuana and was headed for Batesville, Ark.

The second stop occurred at 3:10 p.m. when a 1992 Mercury Marquis was stopped 15 miles west of McLean. Troopers found 9,500 grams of cocaine in false compartments of the vehicle. The cocaine was valued at \$475,000. Arrested and booked into the Grav County Jail was Joel Quintaro Ortiz, 40, of Yuma, Ariz. Investigators believe this load was going from Phoenix, Ariz, Philadelphia, Pa.

The third stop occurred at 9:03 p.m. when troopers stopped a 1995 Dodge pickup nine miles west of Groom. In a false compartment underneath the pickup

See DRUGS, Page 3

Body of missing climber identified as Dallas man

HOOD RIVER, Ore. (AP) — A missing climber found dead in a snow cave on Mount Hood was identified as the Dallas man who had placed a distress call to relatives a little more than a week ago, a person close to the family said today.

Searchers found the cave Sunday near the area located by signals from the cell phone of Kelly James, who made a four-minute call to his family Dec. 10, said Jessica Nunez, a spokeswoman for the climber's fam-

On Monday, a recovery team was expected to retrieve the body, which remained on the mountain over night because darkness made it too dan-

gerous to retrieve. The search for James' two companions was to focus on the treacherous north side of Oregon's highest mountain.

The discovery of James' body followed a long week of hope in the search on the 11,239-foot mountain.

Family members had relied on intense religious faith along with confidence that the trio's extensive mountaineering experience would save them from a week of blizzards and single-digit temperatures that hampered search teams on the moun-

tain and in aircraft. James, 48, had told his family that his climbing party was in trouble and that Brian Hall, 37, also of Dallas,

and Jerry "Nikko" Cooke, 36, of New York City, had headed back down, apparently for help. James may have been injured.

His body was found in a second snow cave near the first, about 300 feet below the summit. Rescuers found two ice axes, a sleeping bag or pad and rope in the first. It was not known if any gear was in the second

Prospects of finding the other two climbers was dimming, said rescue team member Brian Hukari, who was among those who searched the first cave.

"They've been out a long time now ... they, obviously, if they are alive they're really weak," Hukari told CNN. "They don't have radios, they don't have communications. They're down in the trees somewhere. Even, sometimes even if you have communications down in those canyons, they're not going to get out."

mother, Lou Ann James' Cameron, told The Associated Press she did not want to talk about her son and referred questions to the Hood River County Sheriff's Office.

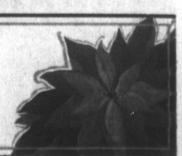
Teams looking for Hall and Cooke planned to focus on possible descent routes on Eliot Glacier and Cooper

See CLIMBER, Page 3

Free Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 25 • 11:00am to 2:00pm Fellowship Hall of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ

Come Share With Us The Blessing And Surplus Of God's Grace As We Eat On Christmas Day







Tuesday: Freezing rain and sleet. High near 34. Tuesday Night: Freezing rain and sleet, then snow. Low around 28.

Wednesday: Snow, then freezing rain and sleet. Mostly cloudy, high near 44.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

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Bush signs nuclear deal with India

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush today signed a civilian nuclear deal with India, allowing fuel and know-how to be shipped to the world's largest democracy even though it has not submitted to full international inspections.

"The bill will help keep America safe by paving the way for India to join the global effort to stop the spread of nuclear weapons," Bush said.

The bill carves out an exemption in U.S. law to allow civilian nuclear trade with India in exchange for Indian safeguards and inspections at its 14 civilian nuclear plants. Eight military plants, however, would remain off-limits.

"This is an important achievement for the whole world. After 30 years outside the system, India will now operate its civilian nuclear energy program under internationally accepted guidelines and the world is going to be safer as a result," Bush said in a bill-signing ceremony at the White House.

Critics have said the measure undermines efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons and technology and could spark a nuclear arms race in Asia by boosting India's atomic arsenal. India still refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation

measure passed The Congress with bipartisan support, but critics complain the deal undermines efforts

Briefs

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to prevent states like Iran and North Korea from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., a senior Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said the pact, in effect, shreds the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "This is a sad day in the history of efforts to halt the spread of nuclear weapons and materials around the world," he said. "The bill that President Bush has signed today may well become the death warrant to the international nuclear nonproliferation regime."

The White House said India was unique because it had protected its nuclear technology and not been a proliferator. The Bush administration said the pact deepens ties with a democratic Asia power, but was not designed as a counterweight to the rising power of

The administration also argued it was a good deal because it would provide international oversight for part of a program that has been secret since India entered the nuclear age in 1974. The deal also could be a boon for American companies that have been barred from selling reactors and material to India.

"India's economy has more than doubled its size since 1991 and it is one of the fastest-growing markets for American exports," Bush

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer.	J-
Wheat4.45	
Milo	

BP PLC ADR . .67.71

Pioneer Nat

Downtown Business Assoc. has been moved to Thurs. at 7:00 in front of Rheams Diamond Shop, due to inclement weather tomorrow. FOR SALE: 2 brand new

swivel rocker recliners, one navy, one burgundy. \$225 each. 662-1252

HEARD JONES Open House and Drawings has moved to Thurs. Dec. 21st due to Weather.

HIGH TOP conversion van, Mark III pkg., 1992 Dodge 3/4 ton, tv, vcp, elec. couch, 4 captains' chairs. Good cond. \$3,250. 662-1252

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa. Cabot Oil Gas . 64.35 Coca Cola .55.13 +0.01 40.68 +0.06 XCEL. 23.16 -0.16 XOM . Nat'l Oilwell 30.67 +0.22 MCD ...

New York Gold619.10 Silver West Texas Crude.

41.74 -0.21

74.43 +1.66

24.50 -0.18

Obituaries

Rubye Stuard Mullins, 79

Rubye Stuard Mullins, 79, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at Amarillo.

Services were at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, 2006, in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Dr. Jerry Lane, pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Borger, officiat-

Burial will be in Mullins Fairview Cemetery

in Pampa. Mrs. Mullins was born Sept. 20, 1927, in Snyder, Texas, and had been a Pampa resident since 1952. She married James M.

Mullins on Dec. 20, 1947, at Abilene; he died in 1990.

Mrs. Mullins was a homemaker and a member of First whatley.com. United Methodist Church.

She belonged to Crusader's Sunday School Class and United Methodist Women.

She was preceded in death by a Mike son. Mullins, in 2003; and by a brother, Johnny Stuard.

Survivors include a brother, Dale Stuard and wife Billisue of Snyder; two sisters-in-law, Christine Stuard

of Snyder and Barbara Cunyus of Lockney; and several nieces and nephews. Memorials may be to BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950,

Amarillo, TX 79105. -Sign the on-line regisbook www.carmichael-

CRABB, Arthur Lene (Artie) — 1 p.m. St. Stephens Catholic Church, Bentonville, Ark.

Artie Crabb

ROGERS, Ark. — Our precious wife, mama and gigi Arthur Lene (Artie) Crabb of Bentonville went to be with our Blessed Savior on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006, in Rogers.

She was born Sept.. 26, 1930 in Borger, Texas, the daughter of Perry Samuel and Jewel Catherine Bivins Coberly. She was a loving wife for L.J. Crabb of 61 years, of the home. They were married Dec. 14, 1945, in Wheeler, Texas.

The mother and motherin-law of Kathy & Mike Kirby, Nancy & Hal Copeland, Julie & Randy Townzen, Perry & Kay Crabb and Terry & Karen Crabb, all of Bentonville; sister and sister-in-law of Bill & Sammie Coberly of Wheeler, Texas, Jody & Terry Coberly, L.B. & Jo Ann Coberly, Judy & Leon Reece, Max & Frances Coberly, all of Bentonville, Mona & Charles Smith of Pampa, Texas; her beloved in-laws Deanie & Carl Ragan of Amarillo, Texas and Charlotte & Price Karr

of Bella Vista; grandmother & gigi of 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and many endearing nieces and nephews and friends.

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She was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, Bessie Frizzell and Bertie Karr; brother, Francis Earl Coberly; and her in-laws, Lonnie Judson Crabb and Georgia Thomas Crabb.

Visitation is from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, 2006, at Benton County Funeral Home in Rogers with a prayer service at 6 p.m.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at St. Stephens Catholic Church in Bentonville with Father Mike Sinkler officiating. Burial will be in St. Vincent Cemetery in Rogers.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's or to St. Stephens Catholic church Building Fund, c/o Benton County Funeral Home, 206 N. 4th St., Rogers, Ark. 72756.

Online condolences may be sent to www.bentoncountyfuneralhome.com

Emergency Services

Services tomorrow-

Pampa Police Department was reported on two occareported the following incidents for the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thirteen traffic stops were Traffic complaints were received from the intersec-

tion of 23rd and Hobart streets and the 1000 block of South Wells. Vehicle accidents were

reported from the intersection of Randy Matson and Hobart streets, the intersection of Duncan and Harvester streets, and the 1300 block of North Hobart.

Calls concerning animals were received from the 1100 block of Garland, the 300 block of South Gray, the intersection of Huff Road and Prairie Drive, on two occasions from the 1600 block of North Somerville, the 400 block of Red Deer, the 2100 block of Hamilton, on five occasions from an unreported location, the 400 block of North Russell, the 1100 block of Christine, the 1600 block of Coffee, the 1100 block of Garland, the 500 block of Wynne, the intersection of Alcock and Naida streets, on two occasions from the 400 block of North Zimmers, the 1300 block of Charles, the 1300 block of North Russell, the 1100 block of Darby, the 300 block of Jean, the 900 block of Schneider, the 2200 block of Duncan, the 2200 block of North Christy, the 1600 block of East Highway 60, the 1400 block of West Somerville, the 300 block of

North Nelson. Welfare checks were made in the 2800 block of Charles, the 2200 block of Hamilton, the intersection of 23rd and Rosewood streets, the 1100 block of Kiowa, and the 800

block of North Wells. Lost property was reported in the police department

lobby. Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Campbell and Henry streets, the intersection of Crawford and Varnon streets, the 400 block of Hughes, and the 100 block of West 30th.

Civil matters were reported in the 1000 block of Twiford, the 900 block of North Gray, the 100 block of South Starkweather, the 800 block of Lefors, the 2100 block of Beech, and on two occasions in the police department lobby.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the police department lobby.

Possession of less than two ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia were reported in the 1900 block of North Dwight and the 1300 block of

Driving while intoxicated

sions, including during a traffic stop in the 100 block of West Browning.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 400 block of East Kingsmill, the 1100 block of Duncan, the 500 block of North Nelson, the intersection of 23rd Avenue and Price Road, and the 400 block of Jupiter.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1000 block of North Wells, the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway, the 2500 block of Aspen, and the 300 block of East Francis.

A prowler was reported in the 900 block of Cinderella and the 900 block of North Somerville.

Duncan and the 1000 block of Fisher.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of North Faulkner. A lawn ornament and lights were damaged. Estimated cost of damage is \$40.

Criminal mischief was reported at U-Haul, 208 W. Brown. Two inflatable Christmas figurines were damaged. Estimated cost of damage is \$100. Criminal mischief was

reported in the 1700 block of Dogwood. Salad dressing was poured on a car. Criminal mischief was

reported in the 1700 block of North Christine. A Chrysler PT Cruiser was covered in flour, eggs, and sardines.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2600 block of Fir, where rotten eggs and eggshells were placed on a 2003 Oldsmobile Alero.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1400 block of Dogwood. Eggs, cream of mushroom soup, and canned spaghetti were poured over a

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2200 block of Hamilton, the 1900 block of North Christy, the 2400 block of Rosewood, and on two occasions in the police department lobby.

Impersonating a peace office and impersonating a public servant were reported in the 1400 block of North

Injury to an elderly person and assault were reported in the 1400 block of Charles.

Sex offender registration was reported in the police

department lobby. Domestic disturbances were reported in the police department lobby, the 800 block of East Kingsmill, and the 1200 block of North

Assault was reported in the 900 block of East Francis, where an arrest was made in connection with the

Williston.

incident. Two burglar alarms were

reported. Theft was reported at Dobson Cellular, 2131 Perryton Parkway. Three cell

phones were taken, for an of Pampa was arrested by estimated loss of \$661.97. Theft was reported at Allsup's, 309 N. Hobart,

where toilet paper valued at \$2.99 was taken. Theft of services was reported in the 1100 block of Darby, where 7,800 gallons

of city water were taken.

Estimated value of loss is

Theft was reported in the police department lobby.

Burglary was reported in the 500 block of Yeager, the 2500 block of Duncan, and Disorderly conduct was the 1300 block of North month-old pit bull puppy valued at \$400 was taken.

Burglary of a habitation and criminal mischief were reported in the 1500 block of Williston. Two bottles of perfume and several glass figurines were taken, and the air was let out of two vehicle tires. Estimated loss is \$155.

Possible unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and a possible civil matter were reported in the police department lobby.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of South Hobart.

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today.

Saturday, Dec. 16 William Donald Stanley, 38, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for driving while intoxicated, breath test refusal.

William Carl Troglin, 41, of Zephyrhills, Fla., was arrested by GCSO for having a wrong or fictitious license plate and theft over \$50 and under \$500.

Cody McKay Ellis, 18, of Pampa was arrested in the 1900 block of North Dwight by Pampa Police Department for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Jana E. Turlington, 32, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for delivery of a controlled substance in a drugfree zone.

Blake David Durham, 39, of Amarillo was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated and having a prohibited substance in a correctional facility -- drug.

Loretta Maria Sandoval, 28, of Sanford was arrested by GCSO for disorderly conduct -- fighting.

Austin Doss Bruner, 17, of Pampa was arrested in the

900 block of East Francis by PPD for public intoxication.

Julian Dominguez Lopez, 27, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for resisting arrest.

Brenda Elena Lopez, 24, GCSO for disorderly conduct -- fighting.

Sunday, Dec. 17 Cody Lee Nolen, 26, of Borger was arrested in the 100 block of West Browning by PPD for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Tommy Laverne Hughes, 17, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana in a drug-free zone and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported in the 1100 block of Starkweather, where a 9- reported the following calls ending at 7 a.m. today

> Thursday, Dec. 14 9 a.m. — A mobile ICU

responded to the 1700 block of Evergreen and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

8:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of North Christy and transported a patient to PRMC.

Friday, Dec. 15

7:23 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of North Nelson and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:37 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of South Osborne and transported a patient to BSA.

10:22 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to CHC and transported a patient to PRMC. 12:11 p.m. — A mobile

ICU responded to the 2800 block of Charles and transported two patients to PRMC. 1:45 p.m. — A mobile

ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 1600 block of Kirkland in Amarillo.

7:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Baten Unit and transported a patient to PRMC.

Sunday, Dec. 17 1:04 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800

ported a patient o PRMC. 3 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to a nursing facility in Canadian.

block of West 25th and trans-

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls for the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Sunday, Dec. 17 6 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 800 block of East Albert on a CO investigation.

Discovery astronauts awaken to Beach Boys, plan spacewalk

HOUSTON (AP) — The space shuttle Discovery crew was awakened by the Beach Boys hit "Good Vibrations" today to get them ready for a day of work trying to shake loose a jammed solar energy array.

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Two spacewalking astronauts were scheduled to work on the stuck solar wing, with instructions from their counterparts inside the international space station and in Mission

It was to be the fourth spacewalk of this now 13-day mission. NASA added it to the schedule on Saturday after several attempts to fully fold the solar array were unsuccess-

U.S. astronaut Robert Curbeam was poised to set a new record for the most spacewalks completed on a mission by a single crew member, this being his fourth. Swedish astronaut Christer Fuglesang, who paired up with Curbeam on two earlier spacewalks, will assist as Curbeam attempts to loosen stuck grommets on the 115-foot

The planned activity inspired the "Good Vibrations" wake-up music.

"Good morning, Discovery," Mission Control astronaut Shannon Lucid radioed up. "We sort of thought that the wakeup music this morning summed up our hopes for the

NASA began retracting the accordion-like structure on Wednesday to make room for some new solar arrays that must rotate to face the sun in order to generate electricity. The new arrays would kick in after astronauts rewired the station over two space-

Reconfiguring the orbiting space lab's interim power system to a permanent electricity grid was a primary goal of the Discovery mission. But the old array, part of the interim system, retracted only halfway before stalling. That was enough to allow the new arrays to rotate but NASA needs it to fold fully into a box so it can be moved to a permanent position on a later shuttle flight.

On the last scheduled spacewalk, which took place Saturday, Curbeam and Sunita Williams went to the array after completing their main tasks, and spent about two hours shaking the array, trying to coax apart the problem grommets. They partially succeeded and other astronauts were able to command the array to retract several degrees more. But more grommets got stuck and the spacewalking duo's time was up.

Asked by a reporter how important is it to get the arrays retracted, crew member Joan Higginbotham, who will be operating a crane-like robotic arm during the spacewalk, offered this assessment: "It's very important from a personal standpoint," she said. "I think we're all very Type A personalities –

I think my crew would agree with me there - so we always like to accomplish the task that we are given."

The array could safely be left in its current configuration for a couple of months, but NASA managers decided to take advantage of the extra hands on deck and the flexibility in their time schedule to try and resolve the problem now.

Discovery is set to land on Friday, having left the space station with a 2-ton, \$11 million addition installed and a new power system. They'll leave Williams on the space station as its newest resident and bring back her predecessor, German astronaut Thomas

Creche practice



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

St. Vincent De Paul Catholic School presents The Living Crèche Christmas Play at 7 tonight. Rehearsing as the three wise men, left to right, are Jerred Burr, third grade; Julian Silva, fourth grade; and Chris Grajeda, fourth grade.

laxes

Continued from Page 1

for October, the first month of this fiscal year, was \$325,890.32, compared to \$215,978.46 for last year. November's check was for \$402,908.13, compared to

\$254,947.63 the previous year. December's check was for \$348,619.89, compared to \$198,914.78 for 2005-2006. Horst said sales tax

receipts are running about 20 percent ahead of this time the last fiscal year.

In addition, the Pampa Economic Development Corporation has had an

income of \$269,354.59 during the first quarter for their share of the sales tax.

The city's economic development corporation's October check \$81,472.58. In November, they received \$100,727.03 and this month, they got \$87,154.97.

Texas family dies in plane crash

BUCYRUS, Ohio (AP) — A family of four from Texas was killed in a single-engine plane crash near a residential neighborhood Sunday night, the Ohio Highway Patrol said

A man, a woman and two children died when the plane went down in a field about 60 miles north of Columbus, Lt. Tony Bradshaw said. No injuries were reported on the ground.

Authorities were investigating the cause of the crash. A witness saw sparks coming from the plane. No distress call was detected, according to the Federal Aviation

dren, Kitanna Martin, 10, and Shawn Martin, 11, all of Austin.

The family had been visiting relatives in Oklahoma and was flying to Searsmont, Maine, where they owned property, according to the patrol. All four were killed on impact.

The Martin family was well-known in Searsmont, where they owned a home and often spent time during the summer, town Clerk Kathy Hoey said.

The family a few years back hosted the town's Heritage Days celebration after taking down and rebuilding a historic barn on their property, Hoey said.

Lillian Martin was a marine archaeologist who wrote "The Art and Archaeology of

Venetian Ships and Boats," and Paul Martin was involved in marketing, she said.

"There's no indication they had any connection to Bucyrus or that they were landing or taking off from the Bucyrus airport," Lt. Chris Zurcher said.

Light rain and overcast skies were reported in the area when the crash occurred about 7:10 p.m., according to the National Weather Service in Cleveland.

There was no evidence that the plane had any contact with air traffic control before the crash, FAA spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory said.

After the plane hit the ground, debris Authorities identified those killed as Paul struck a nearby apartment complex, causing Martin, 49, Lillian Martin, 45, and their chil- minor damage to the building, Bradshaw said.

> The patrol was securing the scene until investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board arrived, Bradshaw said. The cause of the crash was

> Residents in the neighborhood said they heard the plane's engine sputtering, followed by an explosion.

> Judy Grochowalski spotted the plane overhead with sparks flying as she and her husband unloaded groceries from their car Sunday night.

"I knew it was going to crash. I ran into my house and called 9-1-1 immediately," she

Drugs

Continued from Page 1

troopers found 590 pounds of marijuana worth \$280,250. Arrested and booked into the Carson County Jail were Alejandro Aparicio Ingo, 34, and Hector Hernandez, 36, both of El Paso. It is believed this load originated in El Paso and was headed for Tulsa, Okla.

"The Highway Patrol made 16 seizures in the area Daniel Hawthorne of the Childress DPS said. "This has been one of the biggest strings of seizures we've had here in the Panhandle."

From Dec. 2 through

Dec. 14, troopers have made 24 arrests and seized more than 2,200 pounds of marijuana, 22 kilos of cocaine, 2,700 grams of methamphetamine and 8,500 grams of heroin. These were all around Groom and McLean on Interstate 40. The total estimated value of all these

since Wednesday," Trooper drugs is more than \$3.5 million, and that is just in the past two weeks.

> "We have received several questions about why the city of Groom has been the location of several of these latest stops," Amarillo trooper Wayne Beighle said. "Groom just happens to be centrally located on a stretch of I-40 that is worked by troopers from several area cities. Just being in the right place at the right time also plays a part."



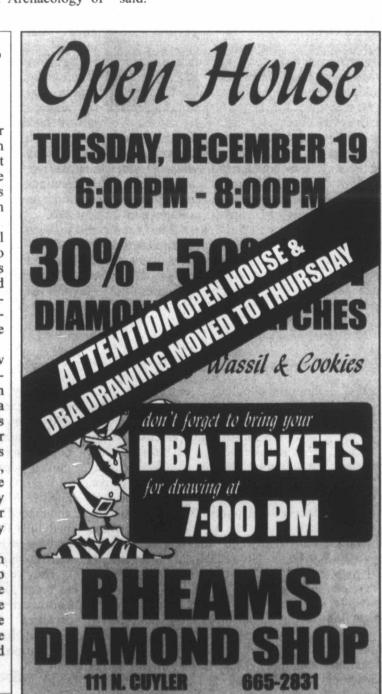
Continued from Page 1

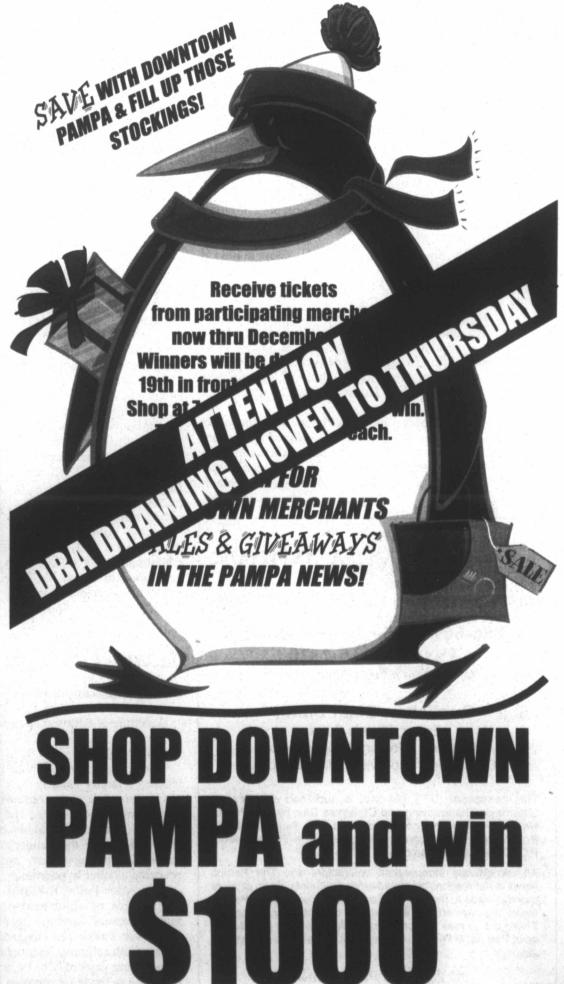
Spur, relatively lower levels of the mountain, in case the other two got down that far, said Pete Hughes of the sheriff's office, the lead agency in the search.

"Eliot Glacier is real dangerous so we will do that by air only," Hughes said Monday. "It's a bad avalanche area with crevasses. There are still people in crevasses that have never been recovered."

Near the first snow cave, helicopters had spotted rope that had been intentionally laid out in a Y-shape, which climbers often use to indicate their location. There also was an ice spike and footprints, apparently headed up the mountain, said Sgt. Gerry Tiffany, a spokesman for the Hood River County sheriff's office.

Searchers dug through the first cave to ensure no one was there and took the equipment, which will be examined for clues. The second cave with the climber's body was found a short time later.





Viewpoints

Hillary: Yes, she can win, but should she?

dropped the coy pretense of indecision that she used to justify her reelection to a Senate seat she no longer wants and has told friends that she plans to run for president, two questions present themselves: Can she win? And what kind of a president would she be?

She definitely can win ... and probably will. She is uniquely able to expand the electorate to bring in millions of women, mostly single, who will vote overwhelmingly for a female Democrat.

The feminization of poverty, long decried by the left, will finally lead unmarried women to show up at the polling place and vote their short-term economic

gender bias. In 2000, only 19 million single women voted. By 2004, their turnout rose to 27 million. With Hillary in the race, the single-female vote will probably go up to its proper ratio of the adult population – 33 million votes.

Can white men outvote single women? Despite the intensity with which white men tend to oppose Hillary, they can't vote twice.

The enthusiasm that will grip many Americans women in particular - at the cultural implications of a woman president will probably sweep through the primaries and cause many to overlook Hillary's flaws and dismiss her defects. The generic of a woman candi-

Now that Hillary has interest and vindicate their date will prove so attractive that millions of voters will overcome their objections to the specific person who is running.

> Her mastery of the establishment of the Democratic Party, her vast lead among ex-officio

> > Dick

Morris

Columnist

delegates many of whom have received campaign contributions from

her coffers and the celebrity draw of her ex-president husband will prove hard for a mere mortal to overcome.

But should she win? No

Those who know both Hillary and Bill well and are willing to speak frankly in ham-handed in her approach. public realize the fundamental differences between the two and grasp how his abilities are the counterpoints to her defects.

He is intensely creative, constantly turning issues over in his

mind seeknew ing solutions. She rarely has a new idea but specializes in advocacy -

the rote recitation of talking points.

He has an instinctual feel for people and an uncanny ability to read a room and know what everyone in it is thinking. She is obtuse in her understanding of people and

He cares deeply about being loved. She seeks popularity as a means to the goal of getting elected but otherwise marches to the beat of her inner, liberal drummer.

He distrusts ideology, and his innate perfectionism finds all belief systems flawed. She swallows the ideological line of the guru du jour hook, line and sinker. During the healthcare years, it was Ira Magaziner who pushed her buttons. When she decided to back the Iraq War, it was the generals who paraded before her committee. She is vulnerable to a cultish adoration of the guys

with all the answers. He lets the give and take of politics wash off his back. A critic is a potential convert

whom he hopes to charm over to his side. She has a rigidly dichotomized view of friends and enemies, demanding total loyalty and public silence from the former and maintaining a ruthless determination to destroy the latter. She is a Democratic Nixon to those whom she perceives as her enemies.

He is a moderate by instinct, seeking incremental change. She devotedly and deeply believes in a European-style socialism in which government takes much more of our national income and offers a far wider array of services and benefits.

He'll raise taxes when he has to. She'll increase them See MORRIS, Page 7

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2006. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 18, 1944, in a pair of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the wartime relocation of Japanese-Americans, but also said undeniably loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

On this date:

In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect.

The price one pays for pursuing any profession, or calling, is an intimate knowledge of its ugly side.

— James Baldwin American author (1924-1987)

ment ended 12 days later.)

1892. Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler signed a secret directive ordering preparations for a Nazi invasion of Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1956, Japan was admitted to the United Nations.

In 1956, the contro-

versial movie "Baby Doll," starring Carroll Baker, was released

In 1956, the panel game show "To Tell the Truth" debuted

In 1969, Britain's Parliament abolished the death penalty

for murder. In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombard-

In 1980, former Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin died at age 76.

Ten years ago: FBI agent Earl Edwin Pitts was arrested, accused of selling secrets to the Russians. (Pitts was sentenced in June 1997 to 27 years in prison after admitting that he'd conspired and attempted to commit espionage.) Aides to President Clinton disclosed that Asian-American businessman Charles Yah Lin Trie, who delivered \$460,000 dollars in questionable donations to the Clintons' legal defense fund, had been to the White House at least 23 times since

Five years ago: A federal judge in Philadelphia threw out Mumia Abu-Jamal's death sentence and ordered a new sentencing hearing for the former Black Panther alternately portrayed as a vicious cop-killer and a victim of a racist frameup. (Both sides appealed that ruling, and Abu-Jamal remains on death row.)



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Don't buy into the 'war on Christmas'

watching the chattering class on cable news and the network Sunday talk shows, I don't know what phony controversies they are currently stirring up. If one of them is the old "war on Christmas," don't buy it.

Christmas is a Christian Celtic culholiday, but you don't have to repent of your sins and be baptized to enjoy it. The Christmas tree and the exchange of gifts are not part of the religious aspects of the holiday. Anybody who wants to can have a Christmas tree and exchange gifts. Even Santa Claus is today only remotely con- in 19th Century England by nected to St. Nicholas, the patron saint of Russia.

Sextus Julius Africanus designated Dec. 25 as Christmas in 221 A.D. It was celebrated in Rome by 336 A.D. During medieval times, when Europe was known as

Since I've given up Christendom, it was a very popular holiday, and new religious services were written for it.

The exchange of gifts began in the 15th century, and yule logs, cakes and fir trees were adopted from German and

Charley

Reese

Columnist

tures. The modern decorated tree was adopted by German

Lutherans brought to North and America by early German settlers. It was popularized Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg.

When the Protestant Reformation began, St. was largely Nicholas dropped from the season except in Holland, where he was known as Sinterklaas. Dutch settlers brought him to New York, where he was Americanized as Santa Claus.

So what is there to war about? Christmas is a holiday that has a religious part and a secu-

lar Take your choice. remember reading an article by the daughter of Jack

part.

Benny, the great Jewish comedian. She said they always had a Christmas tree, and that she and her siblings joined the other children in singing Christmas carols.

Today, some try to keep Christmas carols out of public schools, as if singing a song were some great polemic in favor of Christianity. That's nonsense, of course. Much of the world's great art has been inspired by the world's various religions. A faith so shaky as to be disturbed by a song is hardly a faith.

As for secularizing public education, that simply cheats the students of good education. Even in today's secular times, religion plays an important part in the lives of people all over the world. One cannot know history without knowing the role the various religions have played in it.

The First Amendment, as is clear from the statements of the people who wrote it and ratified it, was designed to protect religion from government, not vice versa. When Tom Jefferson wrote in a letter to some Baptists about the "wall of separation between church and state," he was merely reiterating

See REESE, Page 7

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Dec. 10 Houston Chronicle on Vice President Cheney's family values:

Conservative or progressive, few Americans have escaped the dispiritment of watching a parade of public figures flapping the banner of family values in the past year, only to be revealed as utter hypocrites.

Rep. Mark Foley, R-Florida, decried the ravages of child molesters while making sexual overtures to minors in his power. Pastor Ted Haggard goaded a mammoth religious congregation into demonizing gays only to be accused of engaging in the legal personal behavior

he wanted to deny to others.

By contrast, Vice President Dick Cheney has never been much of a crusader on the sexual conduct of others. He's never tried to pass himself off as much more than a hawkish security maven and tax-cutting conservative. Yet in contrast to so many of his colleagues and associates, Cheney quietly exemplifies the type of family values that really do make this country stronger. His relationship with lesbian daughter Mary Cheney consistently has been exhibit A.

When Mary Cheney first came out at 16, her father promptly assured her of unconditional love. "You're my daughter and I love you and I just want you to be happy," Mary Cheney wrote in her recent memoir.

Cheney must have walked the walk in the years after that too, because in 2004 Mary Cheney quit her job to work on his campaign. Then an even more convincing sign of affection Cheney moved with her partner, Heather Poe, to Virginia to be closer to her family.

Now Mary Cheney and Poe have announced that Cheney is pregnant with their first child. The vice president and his wife said they're looking forward to this latest grandchild.

They're among the few in public life to be so sanguine, however. Christian conservatives, including those who attacked Democratic Sen. John Edwards for even alluding to Chenev's orientation, appear outraged by the

See CHENEY, Page 7

Chamber

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From your friends at the Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce

Pat Vanderpool, Shawna Hunt, Shirley Jernigan, Bill Hildebrandt, Cliff Sandlin



Join us for our Chamber Luncheon sponsored by Innovative Staffing Solutions and National Oilwell at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 19 as we enjoy the Christmas music of the Pampa Show Choir.

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Poe,

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Lunch will be catered by Texas Rose Steakhouse.
Menu: Grilled Shrimp Skewers, Chicken Cordon Bleu
Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Wild Rice, Mixed Vegetables
Tossed Salad, Homemade Yeast Rolls.
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VOL. 1, No. 185.

(AP) Features and Comics

PAMPA, GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 15, 1931.

(Full AP Leased Wire)

FOR



The moratorium Oklahoma farmers seek on their wheat loans are as logical as that being arranged for Germany. Farmers should be given time to market their crop. in an orderly manner. They should not move their grain under pressure of bankers, machinery dealers, and mortgage holders. The moratorium proposed is a radical step, but the kind that the circumstances demand.

Fall Will Go To New Mexico

PRISON IS CHOSEN TO BE MORE SUITABLE

Fall is expected to go to the penitentiary as soon as the warrant for his commitment is sent to a United States marshall or prison

per day if you wish to increase consumption of our money crop. If you slike while bread best, try some whele wheat, well tonsted, with bustler. H's nusty flavor is delicious. If you like whole wheat hest, try some while bread with honey, butter, preserves, or syrup. And here is your chance to persuade the wife to back hot biscuite for breakfast at least once a week. Send Your Estimate Were Pampa folk to follow this EAT MORE BREAD plan for a year, they would consume 6,488 more bushels of wheat than they are doing now. This figure is estimated by the head of the Pampan's kitchenette. How she obtained the figures to while not be revealed until after some of plenty—finds farmers in despair over unprecedented low prices offered for their crops. The moratorium Oklahoma farmers seek on their wheat leans as logical as that being arrespiced in the southwest will not be giverned and the part of the like the companies and merchants to give them as seek on their wheat leans as logical as that being arrespined by the revealed until after some of plenty—finds farmers alooking to bankers, farm implement companies and merchants to give them as respite from the bill collect their crops in an orderty manner respite from the bill collect their crops in an orderty manner respite from the bill collect their crops in an orderty manner respite from the bill collect their crops in an orderty manner respite from the bill collect their crops in an orderty manner should not move their grain under the collections will hold off even 30 days or better and the will after some of the part of the crop in an orderty manner. The hope is that if creditors will hold off even 30 days or better and the proper consumers of the crop in an order proper or companies and merchants to give them a respite from the bill collect their crops in an order proper or companies and merchants to give them a respite from the bill collect their crops in an order proper or company. The hope is that if creditors will hold off even 30 days or better and the proper

HITLERITES MAY GIVE GOVERNMENT SOME OPPOSITION

COMMUNISTS HINDENBURG STILL HAS

CONFIDENCE OF REICHSWEHR BERLIN, July 14. (P)—Dr. Hans Luther, president of the Reichs-bank, this afternoon, returned from his latest credit seeking trip to Germany already acting on the now wide-spread stogan, "Don't watt for outside help. Germany save yourself."

save yourself."

Immediately after his arrival, the Reichsbank president hurried from Tempelhof airdome to the chancellery where the reparations committee of the cabinet was in session.

One Of Series

Meanwhile, the government let it be known yesterday's emergency decree cloring all banks was only one of a series to be expected in the fight to halt panic, consolidate the nation's credit strength and preserve internal peace.

The was considered likely a federal

The succided the Germany. Promptice and companies and more an extended to Germany. Promptice and the state and the



ON ROLLER SKIS

PROBED BY SOLONS Legislators Jockey for Position in Opening

Session; Satterwhite Proposes Joint **Committee Discussions**

AUSTIN, July 14. (AP)-Administration and anti-administration forces jockeyed for position in the house of representatives of the Texas legislature today, preliminary to starting actual consideration of measures aimed at remedying the condition of the oil industry as a special

session opened.

Will Rogers **Dedicates** His Airport

CLAREMORE, Okla, July 14. (PP)—Wiley Post and Harold Gat-ty, globe circling filers, helped Will Rogers dedicate "his" air-port here today, then dashed on for New York preparatory to be-ginning a tour of the United States.

States.

A week ago the airport was nothing more than an oats field. A gibe from the cowboy humorist about the "homelown's" lack of a flying field, set Claremore to work, and an adequate airport, with oiled runways, was provided in a hurry so that Post and Gatty might be entertained. Rogers, who made a flying trip from his California home to Tulsa yesterday in order that he might attend the airport dedication, was brought here from Tulsa this morning by the world filers in their historic ship, the

Thiss this morning by the world fliers in their historic ship, the Winnie Mae.

A crowd of 5,000 persons endured a hot sun and dust to welcome the trio at the landing field. Post and Gatty started their eastern trip after a luncheon, hopping off at 1:50 p. m. (CST). Rogers planned to remain overnight at his sister's home and go to Fort Worth, Texas, by airplane tomorrow afternoon enroute to California.

right for position was fired by Representative Lee Satterwhite of Odessa and Coke Stevenson of Junction who introduced a resolution which would call for joint session of the house committee on oil, gas and mining and the senate state affairs committee. This resolution also authorized the joint committee to conduct an investigation to determine whether the oil industry was controlled by special interests and into reported monopolistic price fixing.

The main controversy in the house centered about the committee to which the bills would be committee to which the bills would be committee. The house recessed shortly after the Satterwhite resolution was introduced and a few minutes after the seasion was resumed a resolution was introduced aby Representative tharry Graves of Georgictom provided the house and senter resolve itself into a "committee of the whole" to consider all oil conservation bills submitted.

A Bomb Shell

Representative C. J. Sherill of Bellevue termed the Graves resolution the answer of the administration to the Satterwhite's resolution the answer of the administration to the Satterwhite's resolution the answer of the administration to the Satterwhite's resolution "threw a bomb shell that squared the The opening gun in the fight for position was fired by

NEAR ABLENE
BODIES OF MOTHER AND
TWO CHILDREN ARE
FOUND IN LAKE

A BRILENE, July 14. (P)—Rites
were conducted today for Mrs. Kade
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Trade deficit soars | Cheney

WASHINGTON (AP) -America's trade deficit shot jump in the bill for foreign

The Commerce Department reported today that the current account trade deficit increased 3.9 percent to a record \$225.6 billion in the July-September quarter. That represented 6.8 percent of the total economy, up from 6.6 percent of the gross domestic product in the spring quarter.

The current account is the broadest measure of trade because it tracks not only the flow of goods and services across borders but also investment flows. The figure is closely watched by economists because it represents the amount of money that must be borrowed from foreigners to make up the difference between what America imports and what it sells overseas.

The current account deficit is expected to hit a up to an all-time high in the new record for the full year, summer, reflecting a huge far surpassing last year's \$791.5 billion imbalance even though the shortfall for the fourth quarter is likely to show an improvement, reflecting the drop in oil prices after hitting records this summer.

> "Lower oil prices, robust export growth and some cooling in import growth should bring the deficit down, beginning in the fourth quarter," said Nigel Gault, an economist with Global Insight, a private forecasting firm.

He predicted the deficit would average around \$866 billion this year but shrink to \$816 billion next year.

Continued from Page 4

pregnancy. Concerned Women for America called it "unconscionable."

Some gay advocates and other nonconservatives have had mixed reactions. They can't quite see Mary Cheney as a heroine: both she and her father worked uncomplainingly to re-elect administration that endorsed a constitutional ban on gay marriage.

While the Cheneys' political views certainly expose them to controversy and debate, their apparent family values can only be called exemplary.

Here is a family that refuses to let sexual orientation trump parent-child devotion. Criticism from all quarters, hasn't visibly

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affected their choices. Finally, the Cheneys insist possible to Republican without being bigoted.

As it happens, in order to move closer to the vice president, Mary Cheney and her family have landed in Virginia, one of the states with the fewest legal protections for gay families like hers. Will she become an activist there to better defend her child's rights? Will the vice president?

Unassailable, though, is the Cheneys' success at an arguably tougher achievement: maintaining a strong family. Whether you respect their politics, in their personal lives they seem to have achieved an American ideal: a family that manages to respect each other's autonomy while supporting other's highest goals.



Morris

Continued from Page 4

just to redistribute income.

He's most Eisenhower, Kennedy and Bush Sr. - feeling his way, acting with caution, and skeptical of all advice. She is more like LBJ, Nixon or Bush Jr. – determined to charge ahead and do what she thinks needs to be done, the torpedoes be damned.

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raised tition by regor of was no reby the come a Speaker sustain Satter-believed in "little pointed gas and esolution oil bills. Represerved a manual sustain a committee, usly any a committee, usly any a committee, usly any a committee of the c

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And finally, he knows who he is and, except for his private shortcomings, is not ashamed to let it show. She constantly seeks to reinvent herself and rigidly maintains an almost totally inaccurate image in public of what she is really like in private. He has little discipline. Hers is iron. His caution is innate. Hers is a learned response to what happens when people see who she really is.

He made a very good domestic-policy president. She would be a disaster at home and abroad.

-Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

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Reese

Continued from Page 4

that there would never be a U.S.-governmentsponsored church.

One has to remember that when Jefferson was growing up, the Anglican Church was the official church of Virginia, and Virginians of all faiths were taxed to support it. His argument was that nobody should be compelled to support a belief he did not share. I would hope that all Americans would agree with that, but I also recognize that it in no way even implies hostility toward religion.

Singing songs or hearing prayers, whether by a preacher, a rabbi, a priest or an imam, cannot be construed by any reasonable person as compelling the listener to support a

particular religion. So, ignore all the hypersensitive soreheads, and have yourself a merry Christmas, whatever your faith or lack thereof. Nothing in the world is wrong with beauty, good food, good will and good fellowship. When I look at my Christmas tree, I feel no mysterious urge to become a pagan or a Lutheran. I just enjoy the beauty

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I never thought I would write to you, but several months ago my wife learned that a DJ at the local radio station was an old high school acquaintance. After swapping several e-mails, the man tried to seduce my wife. He didn't do it in a way that could get him into trouble, but his intentions were very clear. My wife called him and blasted him, telling him she has been happily married for 16 years. This DJ works for my wife's favorite radio station, and every time she listens to this station a little bit of my heart breaks because she knows how I feel about this incident. Should I ask her to stop listening to this station -- thereby punishing my wife, who is entirely innocent in this matter -- or keep my mouth shut and hope the hurting will someday stop? Any advice you can offer will be appreciated, as I have been troubled by this for some time. -- ACHY-BREAKY **HEART IN MAINE**

DEAR ACHY-BREAKY: I'm sorry you were hurt by the lechery of that presumptuous DJ, but please understand that this had nothing to do with you. Your wife discouraged his advances. The fact that she likes the programming on that particular station doesn't mean she's attracted to the disc jockey. At this point, you're making a mountain out of a molehill. You won. He's the loser. Forget about it.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been through a lot this past year. We found out my stepson, "Tim," was molesting young children. Three of his victims are close family members. Our entire family has been through some traumatic times trying to deal with this. Tim is currently in a foster home for young adults. He wants to come home and for everyone to forgive him. As you might expect, my husband is taking this extremely hard. He also wants his son home. I gave him an ultimatum. If Tim comes home, I will leave him. Was that wrong? That boy literally destroyed my family. I do want Tim to get help, but he has been cheating the system and not taking the treatment in his hurry to get back here. Also, he has lied about other victims. Is there hope? - - NEEDING ANSWERS IN UTAH

DEAR NEEDING ANSWERS: My heart goes out to your husband. It is understandable that he would want his son to come home. However, you were right to give him the ultimatum -- especially if you have children in the household -- and if necessary you should follow through. Your stepson is a predator, and no young child is safe around him. He needs supervision and therapy. The fact that he has not been honest with the people who are trying to help him indicates that he needs to be exactly where he is.

DEAR ABBY: When I learned that my 16year-old son and his friends were high on marijuana at school, I reported them all to the administration. As a result, they were suspended from school for eight days. His friends' parents are furious with me, and now I am beginning to question whether I did the right thing. My friends tell me I was right to do what I did. My son said I should have left his friends out of it. Apparently their smoking has been ongoing, and I do not believe it would have stopped unless they faced disciplinary action. By the way, I am a middle school teacher. What do you SECOND-GUESSING MYSELF IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SECOND-GUESSING: While I don't approve of minors getting high on anything, your solution was needlessly Draconian. Your son's friends' parents are angry because you did not consult them before reporting their children and allow them the option of handling the matter themselves. Frankly, I see their point. I think you jumped the gun, and you owe them an apology.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits





Garfield







Beetle Bailey





Marvin







Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Get more 1 Zach of out of "Scrubs" **43**TV's 6 Pay Philbin 44 Went over attention the limit 10 Barber's 45 Playwright Clifford tool 11 Pick from the menu DOWN 1 Smoker's pipe

13 Foreword, for short 2 Sold for 14Forgo 15 Had a 3 Early snack 16 Geol. or chem. 18 Malleable lighted metal hair blemaker name 7 Memora-

19Be a trou-22 Birth 23 Mandolin's kin 24 Took to the impound 27 Toned down 28 Lake near Buffalo

29 Hole number 30 Waste an opportunity 35 "Annabel Lee" writer 36 Checkcashing needs 37 Animal coat 38 Clan leader 40 Barter



Saturday's answer

9 Veer 26 Got 12Leased smart Mexican 27 Conductor 17 Friend of 4 In favor of Fidel 29 High deg. 5 Like high- 20 Where 31 Trite jeans 32 No longer wear out a minor 33 Filer's 6 Mandell of 21 Book "Deal or jacket worry 34Bit of hair No Deal' quote 24 Disposi 39 Language tion suffix ble period 8 Remove 25 Maryland

team from print choice NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Serid \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to

Marmaduke



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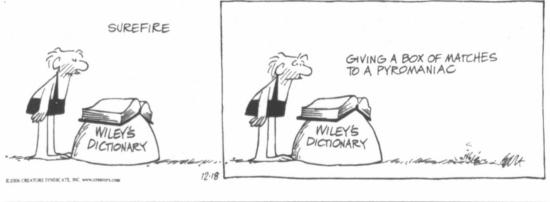
The Family Circus THE FAMILY CIRCUS,

MOMMY! I HID MY PRESENT FOR YOU IN A PLACE WHERE YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT!

12-18

"So don't go near my closet!"

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts

By Bil Keane









Flo & Friends





12-18



Blondie



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Sports Day

Houston faces embarrassing loss to New England, 40-7

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — The New England Patriots wasted no time reviving themselves.

Just one week after their worst loss of the season raised doubts how far they could go in the playoffs, the Patriots dominated the Houston Texans 40-7 Sunday.

And on the kickoff right after Houston's touchdown, Ellis Hobbs ran 93 yards into the end zone for his first NFL touchdown and a 34-7 lead. Hobbs needed only 12 sec- Jacksonville.

onds to scoot up the middle and cross the goal line.

After a six-week stretch in which the Patriots were just 3-3 with 19 turnovers — they lost 21-0 at Miami last week — they committed no turnovers Sunday while forcing David Carr into four interceptions.

New England (10-4) leads the AFC East and can clinch the title with a win next Sunday at

The Patriots led 27-0 at halftime behind Kevin Faulk's two touchdowns, Tom Brady's two scoring passes and the defense's four sacks and three interceptions. The Texans (4-10) were outgained 147 yards to 76 in the first two quarters.

Stephen Gostkowski made all four of his field goal attempts as New England dominated despite the absence of key players.

Benjamin Watson, its top pass catcher, missed the game with a

Wilfork sat out with an ankle injury. Safety Rodney Harrison, recovering from a broken shoulder blade, missed his sixth game, and running back Lawrence Maroney was sidelined for his second in a row with torn rib cartilage.

The Patriots didn't miss them. Hobbs replaced Maroney on kickoff returns and Mike Wright had a sack as Wilfork's replacement.

New England's halftime lead

knee injury, and nose tackle Vince was its biggest in 59 games since a 28-0 advantage on Dec. 27, 2003 in a 31-0 win over Buffalo.

The Texans were coming off a good performance in a 26-20 overtime loss to surging Tennessee. But they managed just one touchdown, on Ron Dayne's 1-yard run on the first series of the second half, making it 27-7. Hobbs scored on the next play.

The Texans' only productive drive covered 70 yards in 10 plays.

Harvester boys take second place at Abilene

Swimmers and Divers traveled to Abilene for the 4A Team Swimming and Diving Invitational for all of the teams from West Texas.

D

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Our Lady Harvester swimmers did an outstanding job by taking 1st in 5 of the 11 events.

The Ladies ended up in 5th place for the meet this week, not due to their performance, but to to illness and the fact that we only had 6 ladies swim.

The relay teams of Nicki Cole, Abby West, Britney Polin, and Rebecca Taylor took 1sr place in both the 200 Medley Relay and the 200 Free Relay.

Rebecca Taylor placed 1st in Diving and and set a new Freshman school record with 263.46 points, Rebecca also placed a very, very close 3rd in the 50 freestyle.

Nicki Cole placed 1st in the 100 yd. Breaststroke and Abby West Place a very strong 2nd. Nicki also broke the old school record in the 50 Freestyle with a time of

26.1. Tonya Kiper and Abby Hathcoat also did very well at the meet, both having new

personal best times. "If we can get all of our girls healthy and to the and in the weight room is meets, we will dominate the meets on the 4A level from here throughout the region.

It is nice to see that the record is changing!" said Coach Miller.

Rebecca Taylor and Nicki Cole are both ranked 1st in

On Saturday Dec 16, the the region at present and are working hard to keep it that

> Pampa's boys have been getting stronger and stronger every meet and this weekend they actually came of age.

Swimming the strongest meet of the year the boys placed 2nd behind a very strong field led by state contender Pecos.

The boys team had an outstanding day and the team was led by sophomore Colby Dennis as he placed 3rd in diving and 1st in the 500 Freestyle.

Colby, along with Cole Guyer, Kelly Stofle and Dustin Neef had the best times of the year in the 200 Medley Relay and the 400 Medley Relay.

Dustin also placed 2nd in the 50 Free and 3rd in the 100 Breaststroke.

The relay team of Christian Hinkle, Jeremy Zellefrow, Zack Robles ad Caleb West teamed up for a 5th place finish in the 200 Medley Relay.

Christian Hinkle, Jeremy Zellefrow, Ethan Addy and Caleb West placed 5th in the 200 Free Relay.

"All the boys are doing remarkably well right now. Their hard work in the pool paying off with great results. You could not ask any more of the young men.

They are simply outstanding right now!" said Miller. The team's next meet is in

Liberty-Eylau Lubbock on Jan 5.

Great Teamwork



Photo by Greg Miller

The Boys Swimming team pictured after placing 2nd at the 4A Team Swimming and Diving Invitational, which hosted all of the teams from West Texas. The boys placed only behind the state contender, Pecos. Pictured here are: (Back) Christian Hinkle, Kelly Stofle, Ethan Addy, Cole Guyer, Dustin Neef and Colby Dennis. (Front) Jeremy Zellefrow, Zack Robles and Caleb West.

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Texarkana to celebrate HS football crowns in two states

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TEXARKANA (AP) — State high school football titles won by teams on both sides of this city that straddles the Arkansas-Texas border will be cele-

brated together Monday. The Razorbacks of the Arkansas-side Texarkana High School won their state's Class 6A title Nov. 25 with a 27-7 victory over Mountain Home.

And, on Saturday, High School on the south side of the Texas half of the city beat Robinson 35-34 for Texas Class 3A

Division I championship.

On Monday, a community pep rally is to be held downtown, in front of the federal building that straddles the state line.

Both marching bands will be there, along with cheerleaders, pep squads, drill teams, coaches and city and school officials from both sides of the line.

Until this year, only five state titles have been won by teams on either side of the city. This was the first time two were collected in the same year, and from two different states.

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charged-up season.

LaDainian Tomlinson play into an 85-yard touchdown run, lighting up Oualcomm Stadium and carrying the San Diego Chargers to a 20-9 win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday night.

Tomlinson finished with

SAN DIEGO (AP) - It 199 yards and two touchwas an electrifying run in a downs on 25 carries to take over the NFL rushing lead from Kansas City's Larry turned a simple off-tackle Johnson. It was Tomlinson's eighth straight 100-yard game.

The AFC West champion Chargers (12-2) won their eighth straight and kept the inside track to home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

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Baylor's aggressive gameplay takes UCLA by surprise

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jessica Morrow is becoming a force on the court and that's good news for Baylor.

Morrow scored a career-high 24 points to lead the ninth-ranked Bears to an 83-70 victory over UCLA on Sunday.

The game was the fifth in the past six that Morrow has scored in double figures. Before that stretch, the sophomore had been averaging 6.0 points.

"I'm confident in my shot, but I struggled early on," Morrow said. "My teammates kept reminding me, 'Keep playing. Keep playing and it will come.' I guess that's what happened."

Bears coach Kim Mulkey said Morrow can play a pivotal role.

"Jessica Morrow can be the key to this team," Mulkey said. "She is smooth out there when you watch her play. She is a 6-foot-3 player who can shoot the perimeter shot and get in there and mix it up with you for

"I want her to be a little bit more aggressive. If she continues to do that, the things that have happened to her in the last three or four games will continue to happen. When those things happen, we're a very difficult team to guard.'

Bernice Mosby added 20 points and Angela Tisdale had 14 points for the Bears (11-1), who won their eighth consecutive game.

Noelle Quinn scored 19 points and Lindsey Pluimer had 18 points for the Bruins (6-6), who lost their third game to a Top 10 team this season.

"They're definitely more athletic than Tennessee," Pluimer said of the Bears. "They don't take breaks."

Baylor forced nine turnovers in the first nine minutes to build a 23-10

lead with 8:40 left in the first half. Morrow and Latara Darrett each scored six points during the surge, as the Bears shot 50 percent in the first

UCLA committed 15 turnovers and shot 33.3 percent in the first half.

"We were caught off guard by how aggressive and athletic they were," Bruins coach Kathy Olivier said. "The first five minutes were kind of a wake-up call."

Baylor extended the margin to 20 points early in the second half before the Bruins cut it to 11 points with 5:36 to play. But Mosby converted Jhasmin Player's steal into a three-point play to give the Bears a 73-59 lead with

Mosby scored eight points in the final five minutes.

Texas A&M International defeated by S. Utah, 74-48

- David Marek scored 16 points, leading Southern Utah to a 74-48 win over Texas A&M International on Saturday night.

Nurudeen Adepoju scored points for Thunderbirds (8-3), who have won five of their last six and are unbeaten at home this season.

Angel Encinas scored 12 points to lead the Dustdevils (5-2), who play in the Division II Heartland Conference.

Coming off the bench as a primary substitute for suspended starter Justin Allen,

CEDAR CITY, Utah (AP) Marek went 4-for-5 from 3point range.

Southern Utah shot 52 percent from the field and went 11-for-15 on 3-point

attempts. Southern Utah started slow, missing six of its first eight shots and trailing 11-4 less than six minutes into the game.

Orlando Griego's layup with 14:38 to play in the first half began a 15-0 spurt for the Thunderbirds. Griego followed with a jumper from the right wing, while Marcus Carson and Marek hit 3pointers during the run.

Houston dominated by 10th-ranked Arizona, has trouble with 3-pointers

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Arizona coach Lute Olson told his team to hit the boards hard and the 10th-ranked Wildcats took his words to heart.

The resulting domination in rebounding led Arizona to an 87-62 victory over Houston on Sunday night.

"Just take a look at the rebound totals," Olson said. "(Houston) has a bunch of leapers and guys that can get on the boards. We had a 58-26 (edge). I didn't know it was that big of a difference. We got good contributions from everybody.'

Marcus Williams had 15 points and 12 rebounds to lead the way for Arizona (8-1). Ivan Radenovic added 16 points and 11 boards.

There were plenty of rebounds to grab as Houston (4-3) shot only 31 percent from the field.

"We just missed open shots," Houston coach Tom Penders said. "You can't keep missing and giving a team opportunities. Sooner or later they are going to break you

Arizona, the ninth-best scoring team at 86.6 points per game, started the second half with a 16-7 run fueled by a series of dunks and layups that led to a 57-40 lead with 14:45 left in the game. Mustafa Shakur scored four points in the spurt and finished with 17 points, eight assists and six rebounds.

Williams had a pair of dunks and a short jumper in the outburst. Chase Budinger added four points in the spurt and finished with 15.

Shakur finished the run by sending a pass off the backboard that Williams grabbed for a dunk.

"In the last game against San Diego State we had a similar play and I told Marcus, 'Next time, if you're behind me I am just going to throw it off the glass," Shakur said. "He just knew what I was going to do.'

Robert McKiver, the nation's sixth leading score, led Houston (4-3) with 13 points, 11 below his

Dion Dowell started and scored

12 points for the Cougars in his first game since becoming eligible after transferring from the University of Texas.

The Cougars entered the game as the nation's second-best scoring team at 91.7 points per game.

"It's not their offense that beat us, it's our lack of offense that beat us," Penders said.

While Arizona was scoring in the paint, the Cougars were settling for 3-pointers, but made just 12 of 41 attempts. They came into the game as the nation's second-best 3point shooting team.

"I really think we are getting better on defense every game," Olson said. "These guys are doing a good

job of communicating on switches and you can see with their 3-point shooters that we have (long arms) to put pressure on them.'

The Wildcats went on a 14-3 run midway through the second half, capped by a pair of Shakur free throws after he was intentionally fouled on a breakaway.

Nick Wise finished off a 10point run with a 3-pointer from NBA range for an 84-53 lead down

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Houston stayed close in the first half by closing to within six points on a Dowell 3-pointer. Shakur responded with a driving layup before the buzzer to give the Wildcats a 41-33 lead at the break.

Nashville defeats St. Louis in overtime

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Kimmo Timonen scored a power-play goal with 1:49 left in overtime, giving the Nashville Predators a 2-1 victory over sagging St. Louis on Sunday night.

15-game goal drought with a handed New York to its secfirst-period power play goal for Blues, who have lost 11 in a row. St. Louis is 0-4 under new coach Andy Murray, although the Blues earned points in consecutive nights against Nashville.

Timonen's seventh goal, a slap shot from the high slot that beat Manny Legace, came with the Predators holding a 4-3 man-advantage. The Predators had been 0-for-10 before the goal, and the 11 power plays tied for the second-most in franchise

Dan Hamhuis' second goal of the season tied it for Nashville with 4:19 to go, ending Legace's bid for a shutout on the Predators' 27th shot.

The Predators beat the

Blues in a shootout Saturday night in Nashville.

Devils 6, Rangers 1.

NEW YORK (AP) Patrik Elias and Sergei Brylin each scored two goals, Martin Brodeur made Lee Stempniak ended a 35 saves and New Jersey ond embarrassing loss in two days. On Saturday night in Toronto, the Maple Leafs routed the Rangers 9-2.

> Jamie Langenbrunner and Zach Parise also scored for New Jersey. Petr Prucha had New York's lone goal.

Blackhawks Avalanche 1

CHICAGO (AP) (AP) — Tuomo Ruutu and Adrian Aucoin scored, and Nikolai Khabibulin made 28 saves in the Blackhawks' second straight win and fourth in five games.

The Blackhawks are 7-1-3 since Denis Savard took over as coach after Trent Yawney was fired Nov. 27. Brett McLean for Colorado.

Yao Ming leads Houston to victory over LA Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Houston Rockets proved to themselves that they could win a game without Tracy McGrady. The next step is tightening up their defense.

Yao Ming had 32 points and 10 rebounds, Rafer Alston added 24 points and eight assists, and the Rockets snapped a three-game losing streak with a 108-103 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday in their fourth game without McGrady.

The six-time All-Star was scratched again because of back spasms. Luther Head, making his fourth straight start in McGrady's absence, scored 14 points in 40 1-2 minutes and extended his streak to 23 consecutive games with at least one 3point basket — tying the franchise record shared by Sleepy Floyd and Matt Maloney.

"We're trying to show that we can win games and pull games out without Tracy," Alston said. "His absence has been a factor in stretches of games where we were staggering, didn't have much continuity and weren't scor-

trying to stop the losing streak, No. 1, and we also needed to play better on both sides of the ball."

Shaun Livingston led Los Angeles with 21 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Chris Kaman had 20 points and 11 boards, and Elton Brand chipped in with 19 points and nine rebounds.

The injury-plagued Clippers have dropped five of their last eight home games after starting out a franchise-best 6-0. They have dropped four straight overall and 12 of the last 14 meetings with the Rockets.

"It's a double disappointment because we're losing games and losing players. But we've just got to keep fighting and plugging away,' Brand said. "One of the things that's missing from last year are energy, defensive rotations, and the fire and will to win. We've got to get that back."

Neither team led by more than five points during a 15:57 stretch, which ended when Shane Battier's 3pointer gave Houston a 54-46 advantage with 9:22 left

Rockets continued to keep the Clippers at bay with their perimeter shooting, getting three 3-pointers from Alston and one from Head during a 5-minute span.

"It's a fine line when to double-team Yao and when not to. And they made us pay the price with some of our double teams with their 3point shooting," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said.

Trailing by 12 late in the third, the Clippers cut it to 100-96 as Corey Maggette scored nine of his 19 points in a 3:51 span — including a 17-footer with 1:19 to play. But Yao responded with an 8-foot turnaround jumper, then blocked Maggette's driving layup out of bounds with 54 seconds to go.

Cuttino Mobley hit an 18footer and Head made one of two free throws at the other end, before Maggette's layup cut Houston's lead to 103-100 with 19.5 seconds left. But Alston clinched it with four free throws in the final 14.7 seconds.

Tim Thomas started at small forward for the Clippers, but never made it

ing the ball. Today we were in the third quarter. The out of the first quarter. He left the floor just 38 seconds after the opening tip because of a bruised left knee and returned with 5:54 left in the quarter. But less than 3 1-2 minutes later, he bruised his left elbow in a collision with Dikembe Mutombo and was knocked on his back by referee Phil Robinson while clutching his painful elbow.

X-rays were negative. Sam Cassell was scratched for the second time in three games because of a sore left heel that limited him to just 12 minutes in the Clippers' loss at Portland on Friday. Another guard, Quinton Ross, left the game with 7:48 remaining in the third quarter because of back spasms.

"It's tough times because of matchups, but I never try to put it on injuries because injuries are an opportunity for other guys to step up and get better," Dunleavy said. "We were hoping that part of our strength was going to be our depth, but that has been pretty well stretched right

Denver Nuggets, New York Knicks await penalties regarding Saturday's brawl

NEW YORK (AP) — In Carmelo Anthony, Denver has the NBA's leading scorer. Sometime Monday, the Nuggets should learn how long they have to make do without him.

And the New York Knicks were expected to be told of their penalties as well from Saturday's brawl including if the league thinks coach Isiah Thomas had any role in trigger-

The NBA's policy is to announce suspensions before a team plays its next game, and both Denver and New York are in action Monday night. The Nuggets host Washington, and the Knicks are back at Madison Square Garden to face Utah.

And with the league still working to repair its image after the brawl between Pacers players and Pistons fans two years ago, it could come down hard on many of the 10 players who were ejected after the melee at the Garden.

"I'm saddened to see it happen,

but it will be dealt with and there will be some severe penalties," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "It's unfortunate when things like that happen."

It could be especially tough for the Nuggets, who could be facing at least five games without Anthony and his 31.6-point scoring average. He and J.R. Smith, who combine for 48.3 per game, joined New York's Nate Robinson in taking part in the most disturbing images of the brawl.

Anthony, who dropped Mardy Collins with a punch, said Sunday he was sorry his emotions got the best of him.

Smith rose and immediately started jawing with Collins, and Robinson jumped in to pull Smith away. Anthony shoved Robinson away, and Robinson and Smith then tumbled into the front row while

Just as things appeared to be calming down, Anthony threw a hard punch that floored Collins, and New York's Jared Jeffries sprinted from the baseline toward halfcourt in an effort to get at Anthony, but was tackled by a Denver player.

By the time security had finally contained Smith, they were nearly at the opposite end of the court from where the altercation started, making it the NBA's scariest scene since the brawl at Auburn Hills, Mich.

"Without being there, I can tell you the power of emotions can be an underrated thing in our game," Carlisle said.

Nuggets coach George Karl had just dispatched three players to the scorer's table to check in while the Knicks brought the ball up the floor. But before play stopped so they could check in, New York turned it over, starting Smith's fast break.

Three minutes earlier, Smith had thrown down a reverse dunk on the break, as both he and Anthony seemed to be trying to impress their group of fans. Smith is from New

Jersey, and Anthony, who scored 23 points in the second half, is a New York native.

But while there is no excuse for their actions Saturday, nor is there any reason why Anthony should have had such a prominent role. Before the game, Karl was talking about his maturation as a player and a person, and Anthony was one of the captains of the U.S. team in the world championships.

The NBA has taken numerous steps to clean up its image after the fiasco in Detroit, implementing a dress code and its community relations initiative NBA Cares last season, and trying to eliminate excessive complaints to officials this sea-

With Anthony appearing in marketing campaigns to promote the NBA, the league can't have him participating in an incident that's sure to trigger more discussions about all that is still wrong with its players.

UNLV defeats Texas A&M **Corpus Christi**

LAS VEGAS (AP) -UNLV's Kevin Kruger had a game-high 23 points and Joe Darger added 11 points to lead the Rebels 67-57 over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Sunday night.

UNLV (8-2) only led 60-57 with 3:57 to play, but used a Wink Adams 3-pointer in scoring seven straight points to close the game. Adams added 11 points for the Rebels.

Kruger keyed a 10-2 surge in the final 1:31 of the first half as the Rebels took advantage of a pair of technical fouls and went 10-for-10 from the foul line in breaking a 28-all tie. Kruger accounted for eight of the foul shots.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (4-3) got a team-high 14 points and nine rebounds from Chris Daniels. Manuel Johnson and Josh Washington added 10 points for the Islanders.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006

This year presents opportunities. Picking and choosing the right ones can define the next 11 years. You will be entering a decisive period in which, because of your choices, you will point the way to your future. You will be generally lucky and land on your feet, like a cat with nine lives. Fall 2007, you enter a new 11-year luck cycle. You also might have let go of a lot of what hasn't worked. If you are single, you will meet someone who might not be quite as he or she represents him- or herself to be. Back out if necessary. If you are attached, making more private time together could be instrumental. SAGITTARIUS often pushes you hard.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Take in new vistas and be open to dynamic change or opportunities. Sometimes it might be a touch risky to take a leap of faith. Don't make it a big deal. Discover just how important a key friend is. Tonight: Walk in a new direc-

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** Sometimes you might want to understand with greater depth those key people in your life. Ask questions more often and explore different ideas. Your openness heads you down a new path. Tonight: Make it close and make it inti-

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** You have a lot to say and, happily, draw a huge audience. Be willing to

talk about your dreams and long-term

desires. Allow life to take on a new dimension. Add enthusiasm and your vision to the mix. Tonight: So many people, so many places

CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** You'll get a lot accomplished, and quite quickly at that. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with others. You quickly get down to basics. Understand your limits and what might be a special opportunity. Tonight: Easy does it

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** You might want to understand more of what is happening than in the past. Your lively side emerges with some laughter, silliness and brainstorming. The unexpected takes a toll on a partner or close associate. Help this person with solid thinking. Tonight: Fun and games. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** ★ Anchor in, knowing your choices and what will happen. You come from a solid perspective, yet you're not exactly sure what would be best. A new beginning stems from another's quirkiness. Listen to feedback. Tonight: Happy as a

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** Your playfulness is easily expressed if you flow. An abrupt turnabout needs to be taken in stride rather than reacted to. You will find that many

people want feedback. Share ideas and allow your creativity to flourish. Tonight: Chat up a storm. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

** Expenses could be awesome, but don't take a risk or gamble, even if you feel it would be helpful. Walk the conservative path, and you will be much happier. Stay centered, but be a cynic with ideas. Tonight: Go over must expenditures. Do you need to make an adjust21 Help Wanted.

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

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reason. You might want to try something.

differently or approach a situation in a

more dynamic manner. Share your ideas,

knowing you are heading down a new

*** Know when to step back and do

the unexpected. You might want to

understand more of what motivates oth-

ers and yourself. The unexpected forces

you to step back and think. Listen as

well. Tonight: Answers are forthcoming

**** Aim for more of what you

want, and be ready to head in another

direction. Zoom in on what works for

you, what might feel right. Loosen up in

the company of a friend or a group of

** You might need to gain a perspec-

tive and some insight. Once you do, you

might question how you could have

stayed on the path you'were on. Your

imagination provides many solutions and

ideas. Tap into this resource. Tonight: A

Singer Edith Piaf (1915), actor Kristy

Swanson (1969), actress Alyssa Milano

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

path. Tonight: All smiles.

for those who remain quiet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

pals. Tonight: Happy as can be.

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21 Help Wanted

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\$39,500.662-7557 5 bdr., 1 ba., c h/a. New tub, cabinet, dishw., disp & carpet. All remodeled

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points

Ringing in the holiday spirit.



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Members of the Lions Club were ringing bells and singing in front of Walmart recently hoping to attract more donations for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. Pictured from left are John Horst, Brad Pingle, Kit Grice, Greg Brown, Pam Martin, Scott Rankin, Rusty Tapp, Jon Bates, Ron Churu, Lance DeFever, Dennis Burton and Kyle Parnell.

Gates sworn in as defense chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Gates was sworn in today as secretary of defense at a crucial juncture in the Iraq war, a conflict that cost Donald H. Rumsfeld his job and likely will define Gates' Pentagon tenure.

Gates took the oath of office in a private event at the White House, and later planned to attend a public swearing-in ceremony at the Pentagon, where the military brass and senior civilian officials are eager to see what changes he may bring.

When President Bush announced last month that he was switching Pentagon chiefs, he said he wanted "fresh perspective" on Iraq, acknowledging the current approach was not working well enough. Rumsfeld, who was lauded by Bush at a farewell ceremony on Friday, was a chief architect of the war strategy and still defends the decision to invade in March 2003.

Gates, 63, takes office amid a wide-ranging administration review of its approach to the war. Bush said last week that he would wait until January to announce his new strategy, to give Gates a chance to offer advice.

Besides the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Gates faces other immediate challenges. One is the Army's proposal that it be allowed to grow by tens of thousands of soldiers, given the strains it is enduring from the two wars. Rumsfeld had resisted increasing the size of the Army or the Marine Corps; Gates' view is unknown.

Gates said at his Senate confirmation hearing Dec. 5 that he intends to travel to Iraq 'very soon" after being sworn in, so he could consult with senior U.S. commanders about how to adjust U.S. strategy. He also raises some eyebrows by saying, when asked whether the U.S. was winning in Iraq, "No,

It's not yet clear whether Gates intends to immediately shake up the Pentagon by firing generals or replacing senior civilian officials. He has asked Gordon England, the deputy defense secretary, to remain, but some have already announced their departures, including the top intelligence official, Stephen Cambone.





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